REMARKS

Upon entry of this amendment, claims 1, 2, 4, 7, 9, and 11-21 remain pending in this application. Claims 8, 11-18, 20 and 21 have been withdrawn from consideration. Claims 1, 2, 4, 7, 9 and 19 are subject to examination at present. Of these, claims 1 and 19 are independent.

Election of Species

The applicant hereby confirms the provisional election to prosecute the invention of Embodiment I - Figure 1, claims 1-7, 9, 10 and 19. Claims 3, 5, 6 and 10 have been canceled.

Claims 1, 2, 4, 7 and 9

It is respectfully submitted that amended claim 1 and the claims that depend therefrom define patentably over the documents cited by the Examiner in rejecting these claims. Claim 1 has been amended to recite the structure formerly recited in claims 3, 5 and 6. Claim 6 was rejected pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over:

a. Moretz in view of Sato et al. (Sato) and further in view of Bloom et al.(Bloom);

b. Sato in view of Meyers; or

c. Sato in view of Bloom

Rejection (a)

With respect to rejection (a), it is respectfully noted that Moretz does not teach or suggest a chain guide wherein the plastic guide portion is slidable on the mounting bracket portion *in the chain travel direction and the opposite direction.* It is apparent from FIG. 3 of Moretz (FIGS. 1 and 2 are not relevant because they illustrate a one-piece chain guide) that the holes 46,48 defined in the bracket cannot

accommodate sliding movement of the plastic guide blade in the chain travel direction and an opposite direction. Instead, the two-piece chain guide of Moretz requires that the plastic guide be laterally slid over the mounting bracket in a direction transverse to the chain travel direction, with the projections 36,38 being slid laterally into the respective holes 46,48.

In Sato, there is no male connector that is received in and engages an aperture defined in the bracket support surface as recited in amended claim 1. In Sato, the projection 46 is received in a recess 40, but the projection 46 does not engage the bracket to prevent the blade from being lifted away from the bracket. Instead, the projection 46 merely prevents lateral movement of the blade relative to the bracket (see e.g., Sato, col. 4, lines 30-32). In Sato, the convex portions 37 engage the shoulders 38 of bracket to prevent separation of the blade from the bracket during shipping and handling. Upon installation, the mounting bolt 25 (FIG. 8) is inserted through the apertures 39 of blade and bore 35 of bracket to secure the blade to the bracket. As such, Sato does not overcome the deficiencies noted with respect to Moretz.

Bloom relates generally to a keyhole fastening arrangement in an unrelated art. As such, the applicant and the undersigned submit that the Examiner's proposed combination of Bloom with Moretz and Sato is improper. Furthermore, even if Bloom is combined with the Moretz and Sato documents as proposed by the Examiner, the chain guide arrangement defined in amended claim 1 is still not rendered obvious for the reasons noted above with respect to the Moretz and Sato documents. It is respectfully submitted that amended claim 1 is now in condition for allowance, along with dependent claims 2, 4, 7 and 9.

With particular reference to claim 9, none of the documents of record teach or fairly suggest the recited locking nib arrangement. With respect to Bloom, in addition to the fact that it is non-analogous to the present invention, it is noted that there is no teaching or suggestion to define the spacer clip member 14 as a one-

piece construction with the member 18 owing to the presence of the member 16 between the members 18,20. The arrangement recited in claim 9 is impossible according to the disclosure and fair teachings of Bloom.

Rejection (b)

It is respectfully submitted that the Examiner's proposed combination of Sato and Meyers is improper based upon the fact that Meyers has been selected from an unrelated art and no motivation is present for the combination. Secondly, it is respectfully submitted that the Examiner is improperly picking-and-choosing from the prior art with the benefit of hindsight based upon applicant's own development. Applicant is not attempting to claim the general concept of a keyhole fastener which is, of course, well known. Applicant's claims are directed to a chain guide comprising a specific combination of features, and the claim must be considered as a whole.

Furthermore, Meyers specifically requires that the underside of the blade remain *unobstructed* by the connection features of the handle. (see e.g., Meyers, col. 2, lines 24-28, col. 4, line 67 - col. 5, line 9). The Sato chain guide discloses an exact opposite arrangement where the plastic blade wraps around the leading end of the bracket. As such, for at least these two reasons, the proposed combination of Sato and Meyers is improper.

It is also respectfully submitted that Sato relies on use of the mounting bolt 25 inserted through both the blade and bracket to hold these components together during use. As such, there is no motivation to add any type of keyhole connector arrangement to the chain guide of Sato because no such connector would ever be required.

The Examiner is also urged to consider dependent claim 9. Neither Sato nor Meyers disclose or suggest a locking nib structure as recited in claim 9. As noted above, Sato relies upon the mounting bolt 25 to ensure the plastic blade never

separates from the bracket during use. In the Meyers hand trowel device, the connection between components is wedge-like only.

Rejection (c)

Here, again, it is respectfully submitted that Bloom is non-analogous art and, for that reason, cannot be combined with Sato as proposed by the Examiner. It is submitted that the Examiner is using hindsight to pick-and-choose individual features of applicant's defined chain guide, without considering the claims as a whole. Furthermore, as noted above, Sato teaches directly away from requiring any type of keyhole interlock between the blade and bracket because the mounting bolt 25 prevents separation of these two components during use. As such, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Claim 19

Claim 19 has been amended to define the locking nib structure that is defined as a one-piece construction with the guide blade inner surface. As noted above in connection with claim 9, none of the documents of record teach or fairly suggest this recited arrangement and, as such, allowance of claim 19 is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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Encl.: Version with Markings to Show Changes Made

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Page 2, last paragraph of the specification has been amended as follows:

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A further advantage of the present invention resides in the provision of a snap-fit chain guide that exhibits improved connection of the blade to the bracket and that is resistant to undesired movement in the chain travel direction, a direction opposite the chain travel direction and/or in a direction transverse to the chain travel direction.

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IN THE CLAIMS

Claims 3, 5, 6 and 10 have been canceled.

Claims 1, 2, 4, 7, 9 and 19 have been amended as follows:

1. (Amended) A chain guide comprising:

a bracket adapted for being secured to an associated engine, said bracket comprising a support surface defining an aperture, a bracket leading end and a bracket trailing end spaced from said bracket leading end in a chain movement direction; [and,]

a guide blade comprising a blade leading end, a blade trailing end spaced from said blade leading end in said chain movement direction, a chain guide surface adapted for slidably supporting an associated chain moving in said chain movement direction, and an inner surface positioned on said support surface of said bracket, said guide blade selectively movable slidably on said support surface in said chain movement direction and a direction opposite said chain movement direction between a first position where said guide blade is separable from said bracket and a second position where said guide blade is fixedly secured to said bracket, wherein said blade leading end wraps around said bracket leading end and defines a space that receives said bracket leading end when said blade is positioned in said second position; and,

a male connector comprising a leg projecting outwardly from said inner surface and an enlarged end connected to said leg at a location spaced from said inner surface, wherein said aperture defined in said support surface of said bracket comprises a first portion conformed and dimensioned to accommodate passage therethrough of said leg and said enlarged end, and a second portion spaced in said chain movement direction from said first portion, said second portion conformed and dimensioned to allow passage therethrough of said leg and to block passage therethrough of said enlarged end so that when said guide blade is moved from said first position to said second position and said male connector is moved from said first portion of said aperture to said second portion of said aperture, said support surface of said bracket is located between said inner surface of said guide blade and said enlarged end, and said enlarged end is engaged with said bracket to prevent movement of said inner surface of said guide blade away from said support surface of said bracket.

2. (Amended) The chain guide as set forth in claim 1, wherein said guide blade comprises a one-piece construction of plastic material.

3. canceled.

4. (Amended) The chain guide as set forth in claim [3]1, wherein said bracket leading end defines an open notch, and wherein said guide blade includes a hook-shaped portion that defines said space, said guide blade further comprising a rib that at least partially spans said space defined by said hook-shaped portion whereby said rib is received in said open notch defined by said bracket leading end when said bracket leading end is received in said space defined by said hook-shaped portion of said guide blade.

5. canceled

6. canceled

7. (Amended) The chain guide as set forth in claim [6]1, wherein, when said guide blade is located in said second position, said leg of said male connector is located in said second portion of said aperture and engaged with portions of said support surface defining said [second portion of said] aperture so that said leg is restrained against movement in a direction transverse to said chain movement direction.

8. Withdrawn (non-elected)

9. (Amended) The chain guide as set forth in claim [5]1, further comprising:

a locking nib formed as a one-piece construction with said guide blade and projecting outwardly from said inner surface thereof [said guide blade] between said blade leading end and said male connector, said locking nib located so that it projects into said aperture defined by said support surface of said bracket and engages said bracket [when said guide blade is located in said second position whereby said locking nib] to inhibit[s] sliding movement of said guide blade from said second position to said first position.

10. canceled

11. - 18. Withdrawn (non-elected)

19. (Amended) A chain guide comprising:

a bracket adapted for being secured to an associated engine, said bracket comprising a support surface defining an aperture, a bracket leading end and a bracket trailing end spaced downstream from said leading end in a chain movement direction;

a plastic guide blade comprising a blade leading end, a blade trailing end spaced downstream from said blade leading end, a chain guide surface adapted for slidably supporting an associated chain moving in said chain movement direction, and an inner surface positioned adjacent said support surface of said bracket, said guide blade selectively movable slidably on said support surface between a first position where said guide blade is separable from said bracket and a second position where said guide blade is fixedly secured to said bracket, said guide blade comprising: (i) a hook portion defined at said blade leading end [that] that engages [a portion of] and wraps around said bracket leading end when said blade is located in said second position; [and,] (ii) a male connector projecting outwardly from said inner surface at a point located downstream from said hook portion and that is received in [an] said aperture defined by said bracket when said guide blade is in said first position and that engages said bracket and prevents separation of guide blade inner surface from the support surface of the bracket when said guide blade is moved to said second position from said first position; and, (iii) a locking nib defined as a one-piece construction with said guide blade and projecting outwardly from said blade inner surface upstream from said male connector, said locking nib projecting into said aperture of said bracket when said guide blade is located in said second position and inhibiting movement of said guide blade to said first position.

20. withdrawn (non-elected)

21. Withdrawn (non-elected)